



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
**JERUSALEM**

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

# WEEKLY MAILING

**April 12, 2012**

**Page 2** – America House Upcoming Events

**Page 3** – President Obama's Easter And Passover Messages

**Page 4** – Undersecretary of State Stephens in Jerusalem and the West Bank

**Page 5** – Human Rights Advocate Naomi Tutu Visits Jerusalem and West Bank

**Page 6** – Secretary Clinton on the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates

**Page 7** – Visa Processing Fees Changing on April 13, 2012

**Page 8** – Exchange Programs/ Upcoming webchat on Education

**Page 9** – International and Regional News

## **Official Websites:**

<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://arabic.jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://gaza.usvpp.gov>

<http://arabic.gaza.usvpp.gov>

## **Social Media:**

[www.facebook.com/UsConGenJerusalem](http://www.facebook.com/UsConGenJerusalem)

[www.twitter.com/USCGJerusalem](http://www.twitter.com/USCGJerusalem)

[www.youtube.com/UsConGenJerusalem](http://www.youtube.com/UsConGenJerusalem)

**To subscribe to our Weekly Mailing list, please send an email to**

**[UsConGenJerusalem@state.gov](mailto:UsConGenJerusalem@state.gov)**

**Thank You!**

## **Middle East Quartet Statement**



"The Quartet underscored the importance of continued steps to address the needs of Gaza's residents, and welcomed the Israeli Government's approval at the AHLC meeting of UN priority infrastructure projects in Gaza. Reaffirming its previous positions, the Quartet considers that the situation in and around Gaza remains fragile and unsustainable as long as the West Bank and Gaza are not reunited under the legitimate Palestinian Authority adhering to the PLO commitments.

Reminding both parties of their obligations under the roadmap, the Quartet reiterated its call for them to avoid actions that undermine trust and to focus on positive efforts that can strengthen and improve the climate for a resumption of direct negotiations on the basis of the Quartet's September 23 statement.

The Quartet expressed concern about unilateral and provocative actions by either party, including continued settlement activity, which cannot prejudice the outcome of negotiations, the only way to a just and durable solution to the conflict.

The Quartet underscored its commitment to remain actively engaged in the coming period."



## **America House in Jerusalem**

is pleased to announce

### **We are moving!**

America House will be relocated to the U.S. Consulate facility on Nablus Road in East Jerusalem the first week in May.

We look forward to seeing all of our friends in Jerusalem at the new space soon.

The new America House will continue to have diverse speaker programs plus:

- A library with books in English and Arabic, which can be enjoyed in the library or outside in the garden
- A programming space for meetings, digital video conferences and movie screenings
- Summer music series in the garden
- A gallery space, for exhibiting works by American and Palestinian artists
- English exchange afternoons for youth to improve their English skills
- And more!

For more information and a schedule of upcoming events, please e-mail us at [JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov](mailto:JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov)

*America House is the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem's cultural center in East Jerusalem and was established in 2010.*

## President Obama's Easter Message



"Michelle and I will join Christians across the country and around the world to celebrate Easter and give thanks for the all-important gift of grace. Easter is a time to reflect on both Christ's suffering and ultimate triumph, as the anguish of the cross continues to give way to the victory of resurrection. So to all those celebrating with us, we extend our warmest Easter greetings and best wishes in the days ahead."

## رسالة الرئيس أوباما بمناسبة عيد الفصح المجيد

"هذا الأحد، ننضم، مشال وأنا، إلى المسيحيين في ربوع الوطن وحول العالم لنتحتفل بعيد الفصح ونقدم الشكر والعرفان بنعمة السلام البالغة الأهمية. إن عيد الفصح هو مناسبة للتفكير في كل من آلام السيد المسيح وانتصاره في نهاية الأمر، وفي تحول آلام الصليب إلى نصر القيامة من بين الأموات. إذن، إلى كل من يحتفلون معنا، نزجي أحر وأطيب التحيات والأمنيات في الأيام المقبلة"

## President Obama's Passover Message

"This is a very special tradition – and it's one I'm proud to be taking part of... Michelle and I are proud to celebrate with friends here at home and around the world, including those in the State of Israel"

## رسالة من عائلة أوباما بمناسبة عيد الفصح لدى الشعب اليهودي

"يشكل هذا العيد تقليدًا خاصًا جدًا – تقليدًا أعتر أن أشارك فيه... وإنني وميشال نشعر بالفخر والاعتزاز بالاحتفال بهذا العيد مع أصدقائنا هنا في الوطن وحول العالم، بمن فيهم أولئك الموجودين في دولة إسرائيل."

## State Department Official Underscores U.S. Commitment to Women and Youth in First Visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank



Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, U.S. Department of State Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, visited Jerusalem and the West Bank on April 1 – 2 to meet with Palestinians as part of a regional tour that also included stops in Algiers, Doha, and Tel Aviv. This was her first trip to the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, and her two-day visit included a tour of America House in Jerusalem, as well as meetings at the Consulate General and Amideast offices in Ramallah.

During her visit, Ambassador Stephens underscored the U.S. Government's commitment to supporting women and youth in different areas, including entrepreneurship and education. She highlighted a number of Consulate General-sponsored programs that benefit women, and listed some of the Department's priorities in terms of supporting women in general, and Palestinian women in particular.

Ambassador Stephens also visited Amideast and conducted a video conference with Access English Language Microscholarship Program students and alumni in the Gaza Strip. The Gazan students described how learning English through the Access program had improved their lives, and in several cases, inspired them to pursue degrees in English. Ambassador Stephens concluded her trip to Ramallah with a reception attended by twenty of the most promising young alumni of U.S. Government-funded exchange programs. The reception was also a welcome opportunity for the alumni to network with individuals from other programs, and they expressed the desire to meet more regularly and continue their discussion on future cooperative projects.

Listen to Ambassador Stephens' [interview](#) with Ramallah-based radio station Nisaa' FM.





## Ms. Naomi Tutu Speaks to Palestinian Youth, Women and NGOs About “Advocating for Democracy and Human Rights”



Ms. Naomi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and human rights activist, visited Jerusalem and the West Bank between April 3-7, 2012, and delivered lectures on her experiences in pre- and post-Apartheid South Africa; her work on combating violence; and the importance and impact of gender-based coalitions. Ms. Tutu spoke to audiences at Al-Quds University, Holy Land Trust, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and with various non-governmental organizations. In addition, she delivered a lecture to the general public at America House, the U.S. Consulate General's cultural center in Jerusalem. Speaking about the program, the Consulate General's Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs, Frank Finver, stated, *"Ms. Tutu's work in helping to build bridges and coalitions in order to break down barriers within us, and then using these coalitions to build peace, is a powerful message. Her message speaks to all of us, and is a message that we can all learn from."*

Listen to Ms. Tutu's [interview](#) on Ramallah-based radio station Nisaa' FM.

### القنصلية الأمريكية تستضيف المتحدث ناعومي توتو ضمن برنامج "الديموقراطية وحقوق الإنسان"

قامت السيدة ناعومي توتو ابنة رئيس الأساقفة ديسموند توتو والناشطة في مجال حقوق الإنسان بزيارة القدس والضفة الغربية ما بين 3-7 نيسان حيث ألقت محاضرات عن تجربتها قبل وبعد نظام الفصل العنصري في جنوب إفريقيا بالإضافة لعملها في مجال مناهضة العنف وأهمية وتأثير التحالفات المبنية على اساس النوع الاجتماعي. كما تحدثت توتو لمجموعات من المهتمين في جامعة القدس وهولي لاند ترست ووزارة شؤون المرأة بالإضافة لعدد من من المؤسسات غير حكومية. كما ألقت محاضرة للجمهور في البيت الأمريكي، المركز الثقافي التابع للقنصلية الأمريكية العامة في في القدس. وخلال حديثه عن البرنامج، قال القنصل الإعلامي والثقافي في القنصلية الأمريكية العامة فرانك فنفر، "ان عمل السيدة توتو في بناء جسور وتحالفات لكسر الحواجز بيننا ومن ثم استخدام هذه التحالفات في بناء السلام هو رسالة قوية. ان رسالتها تخاطبنا جميعا وهي رسالة بإمكاننا جميعا ان نتعلم منها."

## **Secretary Clinton's Remarks on the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates**



Secretary Clinton: "I am delighted that this year's World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates will be hosted by Chicago, a city with a history as rich as the Nobel Prize itself, and a place that is dear to my heart, since that's where I started life.

Some of the world's greatest thinkers, leaders, and human rights activists will be meeting in Chicago to discuss the most pressing issues of the day. They come from all corners of the world, where they are making efforts every day to build peace, stand up for those who need an advocate, help more people realize their full potential. They are heroes for the underprivileged and underrepresented.

The Department of State is proud to be an active partner in this event. Working with our Embassies, we have identified 16 high school students and four teachers from Bangladesh, Burma, Liberia, and Yemen to travel to Chicago to participate in the summit. We are also using video conferencing to link students from Chicago to young people from several countries to discuss the themes of the summit, to find ways they can work for change and to discover their own common bonds.

But you can get involved as well. Teachers can visit the World Summit's website to find educational resources, and students can participate in our virtual exchanges by submitting questions and ideas to Twitter using the hashtag: #Nobel. And you can stream the events live on the Internet.

So I urge you to get involved in this unique opportunity to connect with some of the world's leading champions of human rights and freedom. And to think about how you can make a positive difference in your life and for the world. Thank you all very much."

### **See Also:**

**[12<sup>th</sup> World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates Website](#)**

## **Visa Processing Fees to Change on April 13, 2012**

Effective April 13, 2012, the Department of State will adjust visa processing fees. The fees for most nonimmigrant visa applications and Border Crossing Cards will increase, while all immigrant visa processing fees will decrease.

The Department is required to recover, as far as possible, the cost of processing visas through the collection of application fees. For a number of reasons, the current fees no longer cover the actual cost of processing nonimmigrant visas. The nonimmigrant visa fee increase will support the addition and expansion of overseas facilities, as well as additional staffing required to meet increased visa demand.

Although most categories of nonimmigrant visa processing fees will increase, the fee for E visas (treaty-traders and treaty-investors) and K visas (for fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens) will decrease.

### **Nonimmigrant Visa Processing Fees**

Type of Visa	Previous Fee	New Fee
Tourist, Business, Transit, Crew Member, Student, Exchange Visitor, and Journalist visas	\$140	\$160
Petition-Based visas (H, L, O, P, Q, and R)	\$150	\$190
Treaty Investor and Trader visas (E)	\$390	\$270
Fiancé(e) visas (K)	\$350	\$240
Border Crossing Cards (age 15 and older)	\$140	\$160
Border Crossing Cards (under age 15)	\$14	\$15

Because of a reallocation of costs associated with immigrant visas, all categories of immigrant visa processing fees will decrease.

### **Immigrant Visa Processing Fees**

Type of Visa	Previous Fee	New Fee
Immediate Relative and Family Preference Applications	\$330	\$230
Employment-Based Applications	\$720	\$405
Other Immigrant Visa Applications	\$305	\$220
Diversity Visa Program Fee	\$440	\$330
Determining Returning Resident Status	\$380	\$275

The proposed fees were published in the Federal Register today, and will take effect in 15 days. To view the interim final rule, visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Comments will be accepted until 60 days after publication. At that time, the Department will consider the public comments, and the published final rule will include the Department's response to any comments received.

Fee information may also be found on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website, [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov), and on the websites of U.S. embassies and consulates.

**[The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces the 2013 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant \(FLTA\) Program](#)**

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) are pleased to announce the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program for FY 2013.

The Fulbright FLTA Program is a nine-month non-degree program that provides young teachers of English an opportunity to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States. FLTAs work as teaching assistants for their native language (Arabic) to U.S. students, thus strengthening foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities. Fulbright FLTA participants also interact with their host communities in conversation groups, extracurricular activities, and community outreach projects. Fulbright FLTA participants must return to their home countries upon completion of the program.

**Deadline: July 30, 2012.**

**Webchat on Study in the USA:**

**[Rochester Institute of Technology](#)**

**Thursday, April 12, 2:00 pm (local time)**

Learn about how you can study abroad at the Rochester Institute of Technology as an international student. The Associate Director of International Outreach, Jody Lehr, will give a presentation and then answer your questions.



This will be a video webchat in English. Please click on the URL above and enter as a Guest to participate.



---

## International and Regional News

---

[President Obama's Meeting with Saudi Arabia's Prince Salman](#)

[رئيس: المجتمع الدولي يواجه "لحظة الحقيقة" حول سوريا](#)

[White House on Situation in Bahrain](#)

[الولايات المتحدة تريد من سورية "أفعالا وليس أقوالا" لإنهاء العنف](#)

[Secretary Clinton at the G8 Plenary Session](#)

[تصريحات السفيرة رايس حول سوريا والصومال](#)

[Ambassador Rice: International Community Faces "Moment of Truth" on Syria](#)

[البيان الرئاسي لمجلس الأمن الدولي حول سورية](#)

[Ambassador Rice: U.S. Wants "Deeds Not Words" from Syria to End Violence](#)

[بيان من البيت الأبيض حول الوضع في السودان](#)

[Ambassador Rice on Syria, Somalia](#)

[بيان صحفي لمجلس الأمن الدولي حول الصومال](#)

[U.N. Security Council Presidential Statement on Syria](#)

[بيان المبعوث الأميركي في دورة عام 2012 للجنة نزع السلاح التابعة للأمم المتحدة](#)

[White House on Situation in Sudan](#)

[بيان وزارة الصحة والخدمات الإنسانية الأميركية بمناسبة يوم الصحة العالمي](#)

[U.N. Security Council on Somalia](#)

[U.S. Envoy at U.N. Disarmament Commission 2012 Session](#)